

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Enfield Room of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, January 11, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL-CALL** –Present were Councilors Arnone, Cekala, Deni, Edgar, Hall, Kaupin, Lee, Sarno, Stokes and Szewczak. Councilor Bosco was absent. Also present were Acting Town Manager, Lee Erdmann; Assistant Town Manager, Courtney Hendrickson; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Assistant Town Attorney, Maria Elsdon; Chief of Police, Carl Sferrazza; Director of Social Services, Pam Brown; Director of Public Works, Jonathan Bilmes; EMS Director, Gary Wiemokly; Acting Library Director, Mary Palomba; Acting Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Chief Technology Officer, Paul Russell; Recreation Supervisor, Mary Keller; Acting Assistant Town Manager-Development Services, Peter Bryanton; Director of Human Resources, Steve Bielenda

Before the goals discussion began, Michelle Carroll, who is an intern in the Town Manager's office, shared the statistics that came out of a Citizen Satisfaction Survey. She noted the Council could use these results as a tool to help with establishing budget priorities and goals and making policy decisions.

Councilor Arnone stated his belief this is an unscientific survey. He noted only 1,000 people completed the survey, and he has a problem with the Town setting policy to a survey that is random and in small numbers. He stated he's not sure what the Council is supposed to get out of this survey.

Ms. Carroll stated this survey is fairly scientific, and it takes a very small population of random individuals for such a survey.

Councilor Arnone indicated he's not comfortable with setting policy on a thousand-people survey. He also indicated he'd rather have a professional survey.

Mr. Erdmann stated depending on how the Council receives this survey and decides to use it over the next two years, the Town may very well come back after two years and recommend another citizen survey, but at that time, they could use a professional firm to produce even a better survey going forward. He pointed out there are many communities that do these types of surveys.

Ms. Carroll stated when Mr. Kennedy designed the survey, he used a survey almost verbatim as to those used by professional organizations and it followed standard protocols. She acknowledged she's not a professional statistician, but she followed the protocols necessary to get a scientific read.

Councilor Arnone acknowledged Ms. Carroll did a great job, but he feels the Council needs to move with caution with any grass roots undertaking.

Councilor Sarno questioned what the Council can do with this data, and Ms. Carroll noted she would look at the data to see if there are areas where residents might be very dissatisfied, and the Council could then take a closer look at such areas.

### **GOALS DISCUSSION FOR 2015-2017**

Following are the results of a discussion and tally taken in the following areas:

#### **IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, LIST UP TO FIVE FUNCTIONS OR AREAS IN WHICH THE TOWN IS SUCCEEDING.**

1. Roads/Sewers
2. Public Safety/Police
3. Fleet replacement
4. EMS
5. Enfield High School renovation

#### **IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, LIST UP TO FIVE FUNCTIONS OR AREAS OF SERVICE IN WHICH THE TOWN IS CHALLENGED.**

1. Thompsonville Revitalization
2. Economic Development
3. Planning & Zoning restrictions
4. Infrastructure & Land Use Boards
5. Parks & Recreation –need more improvements to existing parks

#### **IF THERE WERE NO LIMITATIONS TO FUNDING, LIST UP TO FIVE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOWN ACCOMPLISH WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.**

1. Digitizing Town records
2. Hiring additional staff
3. Addressing the heroin epidemic
4. School, roofs, boilers, facility improvements
5. Playscape parks, Public Safety Complex, and new EMS station

#### **IF THERE WERE NO LIMITATIONS TO FUNDING, LIST UP TO FIVE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOWN ACCOMPLISH IN THE LONG TERM.**

1. Redevelop Thompsonville
2. Create a Community Center
3. Walkable community-sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes

4. Large athletic complex
5. Improve access to water courses, conservation & open space and address Scantic Park

**IN ORDER TO BETTER FRAME OUR GOALS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, FROM THE LIST BELOW, PLEASE PICK YOUR TOP FIVE HIGH-LEVEL COUNCIL/TOWN OBJECTIVES.**

- A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (18)**
- B) EDUCATION (12)**
- C) ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY (10)**
- D) INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES (18)**
- E) PLANNING, ZONING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (11)**
- F) PUBLIC SAFETY (10)**
- G) QUALITY OF LIFE (8)**
- H) TECHNOLOGY (5)**

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE TOWN IS ON THE RIGHT PATH/HEADED TOWARD SUCCESS?**

**YES (13)**

**NO (5)**

**DO YOU BELIEVE THE TOWN COUNCIL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING ITS PREVIOUS STATED GOALS?**

**YES (14)**

**NO (6)**

Mr. Erdmann stated the choices will be verified, summarized and put in a format useable by the Council for the next goals session scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>. He stated he will also provide additional information, which is a publication put out yearly by the State Office of Policy and Management, and it's referred to as the "Fiscal Indicators Report". He noted this consists of a five-year accumulation of fiscal information for all the cities and towns in the state. He stated there are also summary charts for state-wide information, as well as summary information related to groupings of communities by population range. He noted they put together some of the most important indicators from this report, and they compared Enfield with eight or nine other towns in their population group. He stated they have a single large chart with this comparative information, and this was shared with leadership several meetings ago and it was agreed this might be helpful information as the Council thinks about its goals for the next two years.

Mr. Erdmann stated he and the Finance Director will attempt to provide a multi-year projection, i.e., expected grand list growth, state aid and other variables. He noted it's hopeful this forecast for the next several years will be helpful to the Council as they discuss their future goals.

Mr. Erdmann stated the Town of Enfield changed its health insurance consultants from USI to Milliman, and they completed a preliminary analysis of what they think is needed next year for health insurance as concerns the increase in contributions from employees and the employer to the health insurance fund. He noted the Town of Enfield is self-insured, therefore, the Town pays all the claims. He stated preliminarily the Town is being told it needs to increase by 24.37%. He noted the Town and Board of Education is meeting with Milliman on January 20<sup>th</sup> to get the detail behind this projection. He stated this information was received last week. He stated the Board of Education included this figure into their proposed budget, which will be shared at the Board of Education meeting tomorrow night. He pointed out this is about a \$4 million dollar increase between the Town and Board of Education combined. He stated they're spending approximately \$17 million dollars in the current fiscal year, and next year the projection is \$21.1 million dollars.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.